Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Applicants have submitted a new complete claim set showing any marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering enhanced programming content to a receiver, the receiver being configured to display the enhanced programming content, the method comprising:

obtaining a schema document, the schema document comprising:

a trigger data structure;

an announcement data structure;

a package data structure; and

a timeline data structure containing instructions for specifying times defined relative to a specific start time for delivery of the trigger data structure, announcement data structure and package data structure, and a particular order for delivering each of the trigger, announcement and package data structures to the receiver, wherein the enhanced programming content includes one or more triggers, announcements, packages and timelines corresponding to the trigger data structure, announcement data structure, package data structure and timeline data structure, respectively, the instructions also including a loop attribute to prevent multiple delivery of the enhanced programming content to the receiver;

wherein the schema document is generic and non-specific to hardware and software modules associated with authoring tools used to create the enhanced programming content, such that the enhanced programming content is multi-platform

compatible;

analyzing the timeline data structure to determine when to deliver each of the trigger, announcement and package data structures;

verifying the authenticity of the schema document by comparing the schema document against a stored standardized schema document; and

upon verifying the authenticity of the schema document, delivering each one of the trigger data structure, the announcement data structure, and the package data structure to the receiver as specified by the timeline data structure,

wherein the delivering step comprises delivering the enhanced programming content in an asynchronous order,

wherein the timeline data structure designates a particular number of frames following the specific start time to specify when the trigger data structure, the announcement data structure, and the package data structure will be delivered.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

(a) a step for viewing television programming deliverable to the receiver; and

(b) in response to viewing the television programming, a step for creating the schema document associated with the television programming.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for accessing the schema document comprises the step of retrieving the schema document from a repository containing a plurality of schema documents.

4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for creating the schema document comprises a step for creating the schema document with an authoring tool.

5. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the enhanced programming content comprises at least one of an announcement element, a trigger element, and

a package element.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the delivering step comprises synchronizing the enhanced programming content with television programming over a communication line.

8. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the delivering step comprises delivering the enhanced programming content with a communication protocol.

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the communication protocol is selected from the group consisting of (i) a transport A protocol and (ii) a transport B protocol.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the delivering step comprises delivering the enhanced programming content before a deliver-by time, defined in the schema document.

11. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the delivering step comprises delivering the enhanced programming content by a start time defined in the schema document.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the timeline data structure functions as a carousel data structure.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the carousel data structure specifies that the trigger data structure, the announcement data structure, and the

package data structure should be delivered as fast as possible.

14. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the delivery step comprises:

a step for delivering an announcement signal comprising the announcement data structure to the receiver, the announcement signal identifying the availability of enhanced programming content to the receiver;

a step for delivering a package comprising the package data structure to the receiver, the package identifying the enhanced programming content;

a step for delivering a trigger signal comprising the trigger data structure to the receiver, the trigger signal notifying the viewer of the availability of enhanced programming content; and

in response to a selection by the viewer to receive the enhanced programming content, a step for displaying the enhanced programming content to the viewer.

15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14, wherein the package comprises at least one file containing the enhanced programming content.

16. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14, wherein the package comprises at least one link to the enhanced programming content.

17. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14, wherein the trigger comprises at least one link to the enhanced programming content identified in the package.

18. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14, wherein the at least one user action comprises the step of accepting a notification displayed to the viewer of the availability of enhanced programming content.

19-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the document comprises an XML document.

31-35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the communication line comprises a plurality of different channels.

37. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 36, wherein the communication line comprises a first channel configured to transport the television programming to the receiver and a second channel configured to transport the enhanced programming to the receiver, the first channel and the second channel being different channels.

38. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for implementing a method for providing enhanced programming content defined within a schema document to a viewer of a receiver module, comprising:

a computer readable medium carrying computer-executable instructions for implementing the method recited in claim 1.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the schema document further includes a tag that can be used to validate the authenticity of the schema document.

41. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the timeline data

structure specifies a deliver by time for delivering each of the trigger, announcement and package data structures.

42. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the particular order specifies which of the trigger data structure and the package data structure will be delivered first.

43. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the specific start time of the timeline data structure is zeroed to a beginning of programming.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the enhanced programming content is delivered in an electronic mail message separately from audio and video programming that it will be displayed with.